

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 105

To establish a locally oriented commission to assist the city of Berlin, New Hampshire, in identifying and studying its region's historical and cultural assets, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. BASS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To establish a locally oriented commission to assist the city of Berlin, New Hampshire, in identifying and studying its region's historical and cultural assets, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Androscoggin River
5 Valley Heritage Area Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to establish a locally ori-
3 ented commission to assist the city of Berlin, New Hamp-
4 shire, in identifying and studying its region's historical
5 and cultural assets.

6 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF BERLIN AND THE**
7 **ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER VALLEY HERITAGE**
8 **COMMISSION.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established
10 the Berlin and the Androscoggin River Valley Heritage
11 Commission (in this Act referred to as the “Commis-
12 sion”), which shall consist of 11 members appointed not
13 later than 3 months after the date of enactment of this
14 Act, as follows:

15 (1) 1 member appointed by the Governor of
16 New Hampshire, who shall serve as Chair.

17 (2) 1 member appointed by the Speaker of the
18 House of Representatives of the State of New
19 Hampshire.

20 (3) 1 member appointed by the President of the
21 Senate of the State of New Hampshire.

22 (4) 2 members appointed by the Secretary of
23 the Interior from among individuals recommended
24 by State and local cultural or historic preservation
25 organizations.

1 (5) 1 member who has experience in the area
2 of historical projects, appointed by the Secretary of
3 the Interior.

4 (6) 4 members appointed by the Mayor of the
5 city of Berlin, New Hampshire.

6 (7) 1 member appointed by the Member of the
7 House of Representatives representing the Second
8 Congressional District of New Hampshire.

9 (b) VOTING.—The Commission shall act and advise
10 by affirmative vote of a majority of its members.

11 (c) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commission
12 shall receive no pay on account of their service on the
13 Commission, but while away from their homes or regular
14 places of business in the performance of services for the
15 Commission members of the Commission shall be allowed
16 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
17 in the same manner as persons employed intermittently
18 in Government service are allowed expenses under section
19 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

20 (d) EXEMPTION FROM CHARTER RENEWAL RE-
21 QUIREMENTS.—Section 14(b) of the Federal Advisory
22 Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the
23 Commission.

24 (e) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
25 upon submission of the report under section 4(b).

1 (f) SUPPORT.—The Director of the National Park
2 Service may provide such staff support and technical serv-
3 ices as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the
4 Commission. The Secretary of the Interior may provide
5 the Commission such technical and other assistance as is
6 necessary to complete the study described in section 4.

7 (g) OPEN MEETINGS.—All meetings of the Commis-
8 sion shall be open to the public.

9 **SEC. 4. STUDY.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the comple-
11 tion of appointment of the members of the Commission,
12 the Commission shall complete a comprehensive study of
13 the Androscoggin River Valley’s history and culture in
14 New Hampshire. The study shall—

15 (1) include a catalog of all available historically
16 and culturally significant sites, buildings, and areas
17 in the region;

18 (2) examine the feasibility of any Federal or
19 State historic recognition;

20 (3) include a set of options for the city of Ber-
21 lin, New Hampshire, to pursue with respect to herit-
22 age-based development, including a list of available
23 Federal, State, and private programs which would
24 further any such efforts; and

1 (4) account for the impacts of any heritage-
2 based development on private, State, and municipal
3 property.

4 (b) REPORT.—The Commission shall provide the
5 Congress, the Secretary of the Interior, and the State of
6 New Hampshire with a report based on the study de-
7 scribed in subsection (a).

8 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 For the purposes of carrying out the functions of the
10 Commission, there are authorized to be appropriated
11 \$20,000.

12 **SEC. 6. NO REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**

13 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to provide the
14 Commission with any regulatory authority.

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